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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 15405

E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, CH
SUBJECT: SITUATION COULD REACH CRITICAL MASS

1. WE ARE WITNESSING A MASSIVE MILITARY MOVEMENT INTO CENTRAL BEIJING. THE TROOPS ARE ARMED UNLIKE THE TROOPS THAT MOVED INTO THE CITY EARLY THIS MORNING. WE HAVE CITIZENS RESISTING THE ENTRY OF THESE ARMED TROOPS INTO BEIJING. WE HAVE AMERICAN TELEVISION CREWS FILMING DIRECTLY ON TIANANMEN SQUARE IN VIOLATION OF MARTIAL LAW PROVISIONS. WE HAVE OUR OWN OFFICERS OUT OBSERVING. MANY AMERICAN TOURISTS AND AMERICAN RESIDENTS ARE WANDERING AROUND OBLIVIOUS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING OR THE POTENTIAL DANGERS INVOLVED. ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY UNITS HAVE BEEN STOPPED SO FAR BY CITIZEN BARRICADES, IT IS ALSO LIKELY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN ORDERS YET TO USE FORCE. ELITE AIRBORNE UNITS ARE PREPARING TO ADVANCE. THESE ARE HIGHLY TRAINED, VERY CAPABLE UNITS. WE ARE FACING A POTENTIAL SITUATION THAT COULD REACH A CRITICAL MASS, ESPECIALLY IF MECHANIZED FORCES ARE BROUGHT TO BEAR. LILLEY

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Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
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